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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/006W			

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R 272304Z FEB 01  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0098  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY LUANDA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS BOGOTA 001857

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/AND, DRL/SEA, EB/ESC/IEC/EPC AND DS/OSAC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: ECON, PHUM, PREL, ELAB, ASEC, CO  
SUBJECT: MEETING ON VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES FOR EXTRACTIVE  
INDUSTRIES

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REF: A) STATE 10207, B) STATE 10163

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT  
ACCORDINGLY. ACTION REQUEST IN PARA 6.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICERS, TOGETHER WITH  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AND A VISITING  
BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICER, OUTLINED THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES  
FOR SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES  
TO A RANGE OF MULTINATIONAL OIL, GAS AND MINING FIRMS  
OPERATING IN COLOMBIA. CORPORATE REACTION WAS INTERESTED  
BUT RESERVED. END SUMMARY

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3. (U) PER REF A, ON FEBRUARY 22, POST HOSTED A MEETING AND DISCUSSION SESSION ON THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES FOR SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (PRINCIPLES). VISITING BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP OFFICER ANDREW WOODCOCK SERVED AS THE MAIN SPEAKER. ATTENDANCE BY US AND UK COMPANIES WAS AS FOLLOWS: ASOCIACION COLOMBIANA DE PETROLEOS (INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES), ARGOSY INTERNATIONAL, BP/AMOCO, CARBONES DEL CERRAJON (BILLINGTON), CERROMATOSO, CHEVRON, DRUMMOND, LTD., EMERALD ENERGY, EXXON MOBIL, GHK, NEXEN PETROLEUM (CANADIAN), OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, SHELL, TEXACO.

4. (SBU) THE MEETING WAS OPENED BY THE DCM AND INCLUDED A PRESENTATION ON THE PRINCIPLES BY WOODCOCK, AND COMMENTS BY ECONOFF, WHICH INCLUDED TALKING POINTS BY RSO. THESE PRESENTATIONS FOCUSED ON THE ORIGIN OF THE PRINCIPLES, THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE, AND THEIR BENEFITS TO THE COMPANIES. THERE WAS PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE VOLUNTARY

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NATURE OF THE PRINCIPLES, THEIR FUNCTION AS GUIDELINES FOR COMPANY SECURITY POLICIES, AND THE FACT THAT THESE PRINCIPLES WERE CREATED THROUGH DIALOGUE BETWEEN COMPANY HOME OFFICES AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY GROUPS, WITH THE US AND UK GOVERNMENTS PLAYING A FACILITATING ROLE. FCS COUNSELOR LIKENED THE PRINCIPLES TO COMPANY VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION STANDARDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FOR EXAMPLE. RSO COMMENTS INCLUDED AVAILABILITY OF ITS OFFICE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPANIES KNOWING WELL WHO IS PERFORMING THEIR SECURITY WORK.

5. (SBU) THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED CENTERED ON HOW THE PRINCIPLES COULD BE APPLIED IN COLOMBIA. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE SOPHISTICATED SECURITY POLICIES WHICH RESPOND TO OPERATING IN A COUNTRY WITH A DIFFICULT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. WOODCOCK AND ECONOFF RESPONDED THAT THE PRINCIPLES ARE GLOBAL IN NATURE, BUT THE COMPANIES SHOULD LOOK AT THEM CLOSELY TO SEE HOW THEY WOULD/COULD WORK IN THE COLOMBIAN REALITY. THE RESULTING COUNTRY-SPECIFIC COMMENTS COULD THEN BE USED AS DISCUSSION MATERIAL AT THE MARCH 2001 VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES MEETING IN LONDON; THE PRINCIPLES CAN SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR IN-COUNTRY, MULTI-COMPANY DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF SECURITY IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES. DISCUSSION WAS CLOSED BY EMPHASIZING THAT THESE PRINCIPLES BELONG TO THE COMPANIES AND THE NGOS WHO CREATED THEM. THUS, FURTHER ACTION ON THE PRINCIPLES WILL BE PROPELLED BY COMPANY/NGO

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INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT.

6. (SBU) COMPANIES FELT THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE TOO NEW TO  
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THEM TO BEGIN INVOLVING THE GOC DIRECTLY. THE COMPANIES  
WOULD LIKE TO KEEP A LOWER PROFILE ON THESE PRINCIPLES UNTIL  
THEY ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THEM AND HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO  
DISCUSS THEM FURTHER.

7. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED  
THAT ECONOFF AND WOODCOCK PROVIDE A LIST OF THE WORKING  
LEVEL INTERLOCUTORS IN THE HOME OFFICES OF THE COMPANIES  
INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. THIS WOULD FACILITATE EFFECTIVE  
COMMUNICATION OF ANY ISSUES AND IDEAS. POST REQUESTS THE  
DEPARTMENT PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION FOR DISTRIBUTION.

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